

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# EXPLORE EARTH

## EARTH SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY FORUM

**Dr. Karen St. Germain**

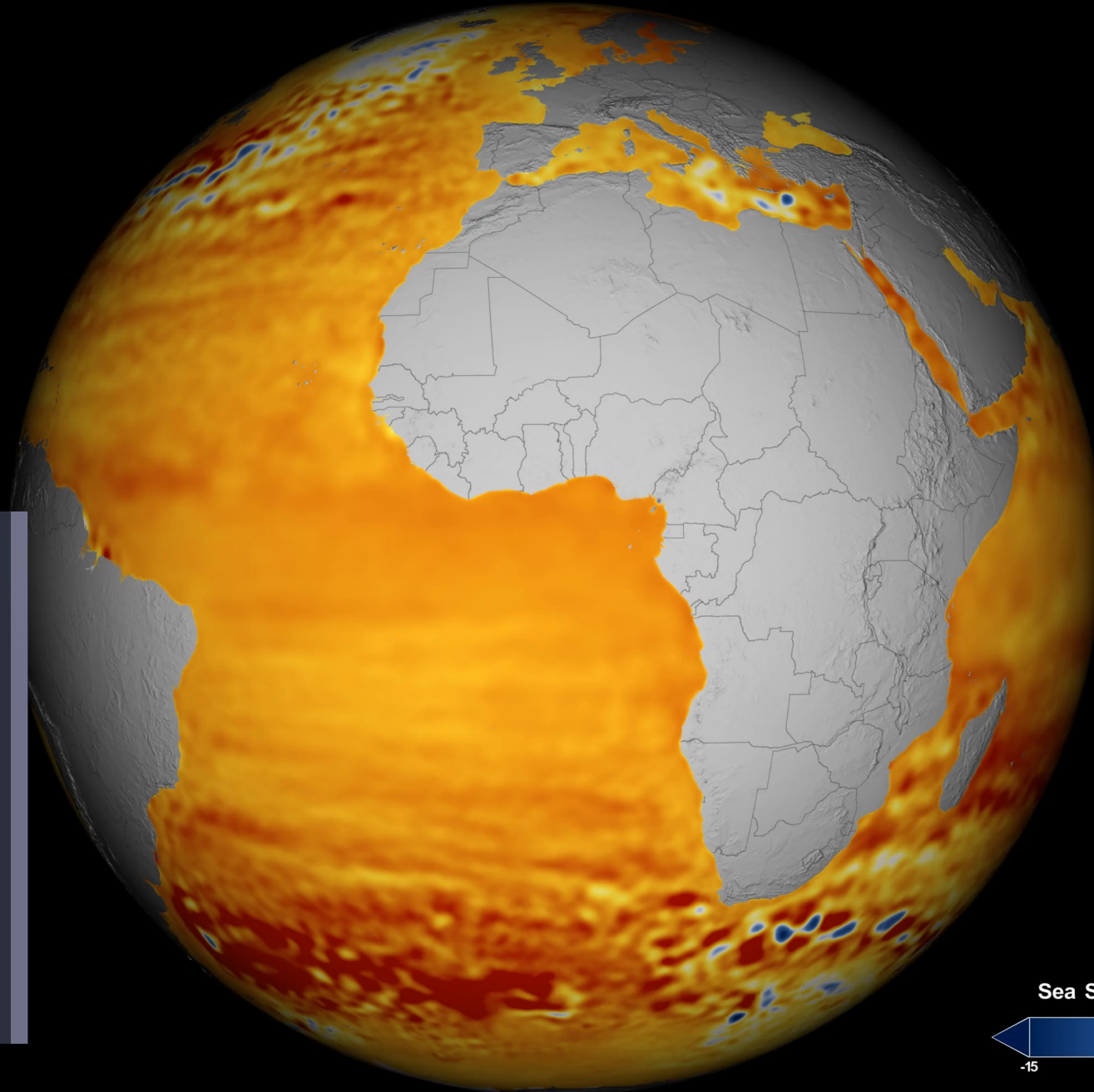
Director, Earth Science Division  
NASA Science Mission Directorate

May 6, 2021

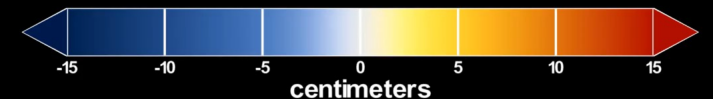


# CLIMATE IS RAPIDLY CHANGING

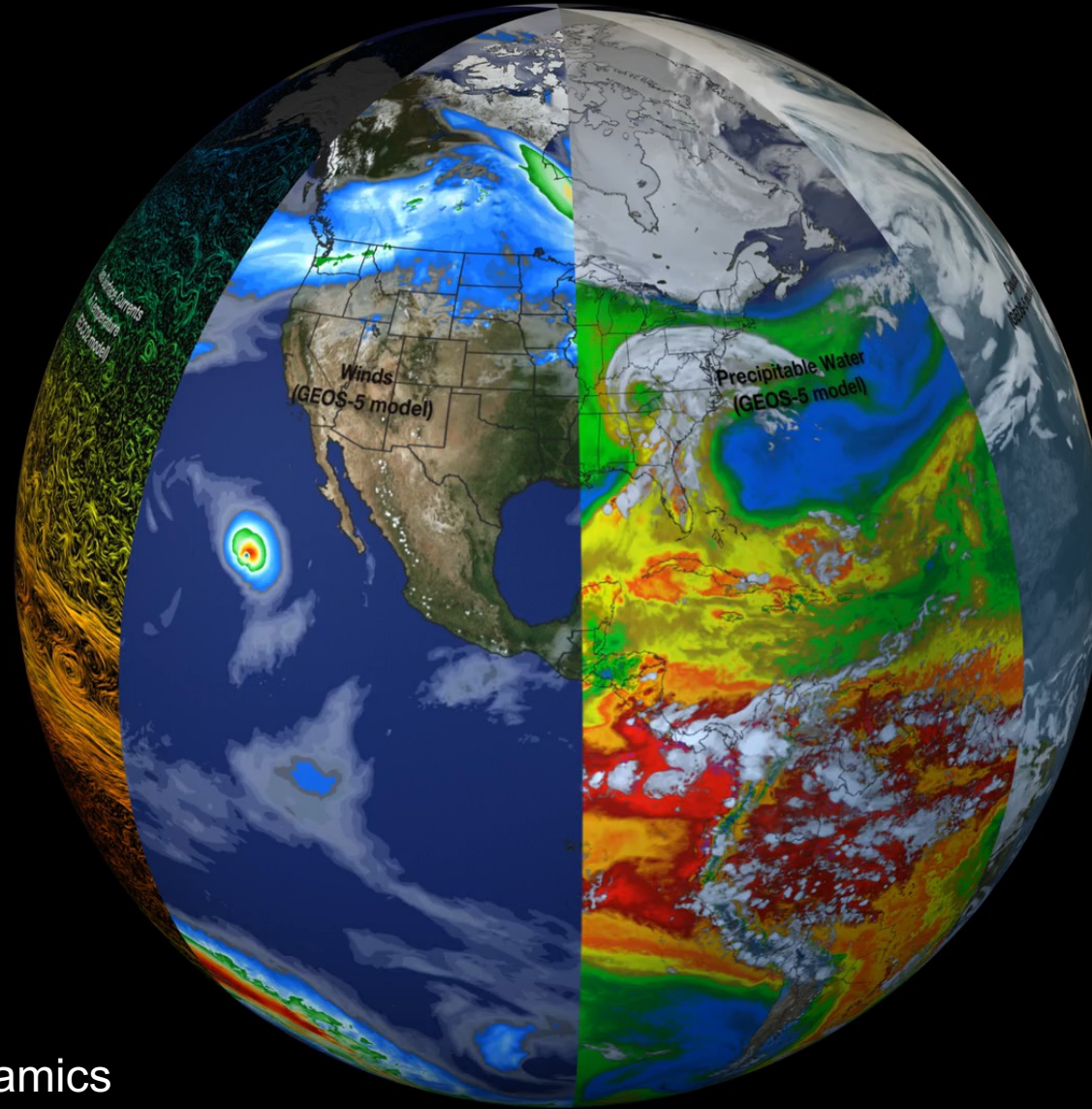
Demand for accurate,  
timely, and actionable  
knowledge is more  
pressing than ever



Sea Surface Height Change from 1992 to 2019



# NASA Earth System Science



Atmospheric Composition  
Carbon Cycle and Ecosystems  
Climate Variability and Change  
Earth Surface and Interior  
Water and Energy Cycle  
Weather and Atmospheric Dynamics

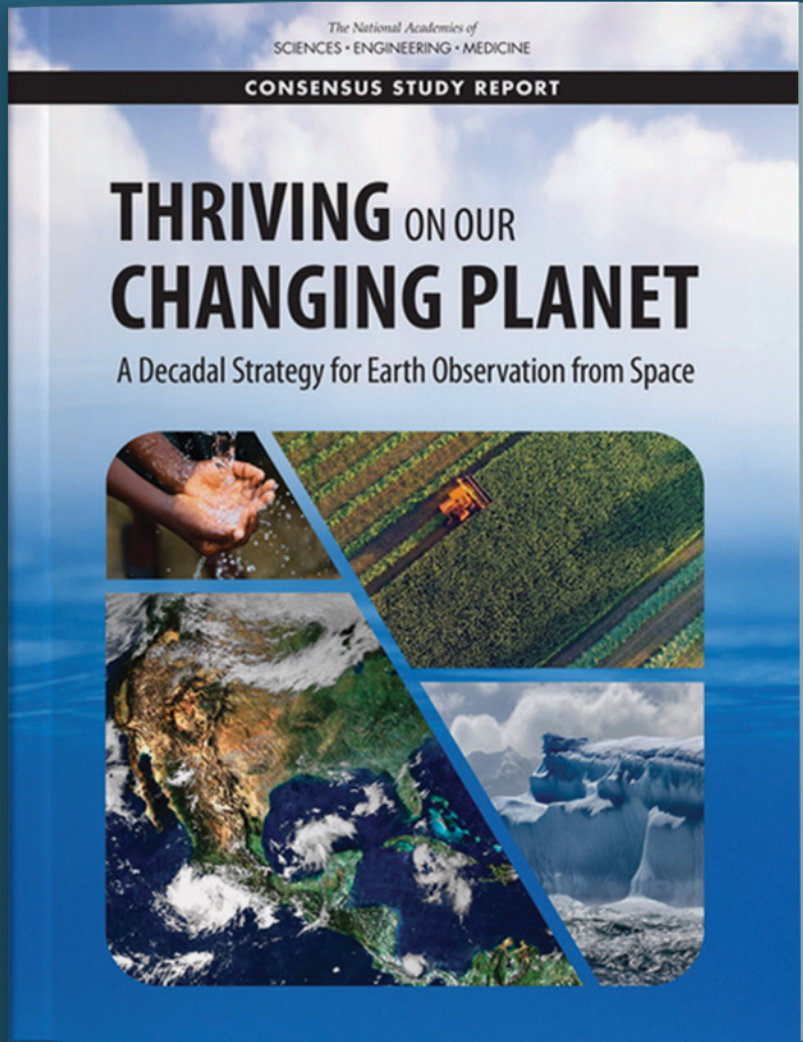


# Earth System Science Informs Global and Regional Solutions

**NATURAL HAZARD  
WARNING AND RECOVERY**







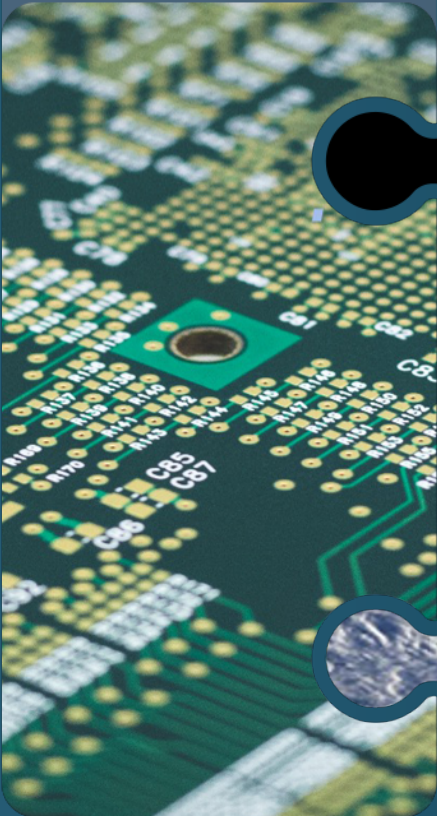
# 2017 Earth Science Decadal Survey

- A guiding framework for space-based Earth science
- Emphasizes partnerships and innovation
- Identifies key questions and observations for:
  - Climate variability and change
  - Weather and air quality
  - Hydrogeological cycles and water resources
  - Ecosystems and natural resource management
  - Solid Earth dynamics and hazards



# Advancing Earth System Science End-to-end

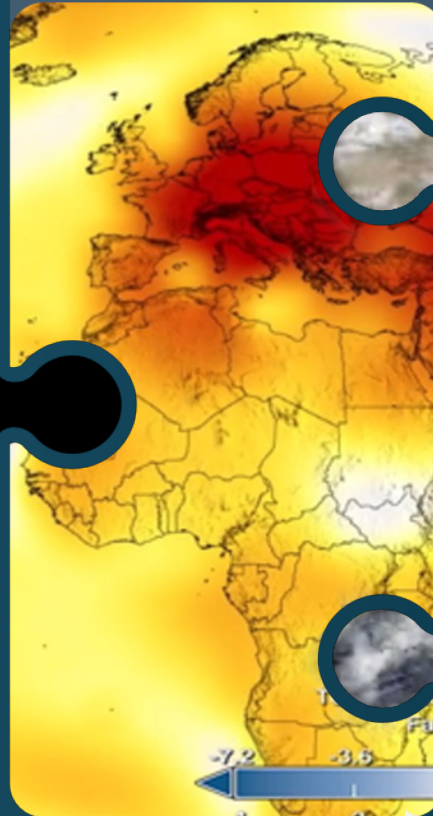
TECHNOLOGY



FLIGHT



RESEARCH  
AND ANALYSIS



DATA  
AND COMPUTE



APPLICATIONS





# NASA EARTH FLEET

OPERATING & FUTURE THROUGH 2023

SWOT (CNES)

LANDSAT-9 (USGS) SENTINEL-6 B (ESA, EUMETSAT, NOAA)

TROPICS (6)

GEOCARB

NISAR (ISRO)

MAIA

TSIS-2

TEMPO

PREFIRE (2)

PACE (NSO)

GLIMR

SENTINEL-6 Michael Freilich (ESA, EUMETSAT, NOAA)

ICESAT-2

GRACE-FO (2) (GFZ)

CYGNSS (8)

NISTAR, EPIC (DISCOVER/NOAA)

CLOUDSAT (CSA)

TERRA (METI, CSA)

AQUA (JAXA, AEB)

AURA (NSO, FMI, UKSA)

CALIPSO (CNES)

GPM (JAXA)

LANDSAT 7 (USGS)

LANDSAT 8 (USGS)

OCO-2

SMAP

SUOMI NPP (NOAA)

## INVEST/CUBESATS

CSIM-FD

HARP

TEMPEST-D

CIRiS

CTIM

HyTI

SNoOPI

NACHOS

## ISS INSTRUMENTS

EMIT

CLARREO-PF

GEDI

OCO-3

TSIS-1

ECOSTRESS

LIS

SAGE III

## JPSS-2, 3 & 4 INSTRUMENTS

OMPS-Limb

LIBERA

(PRE) FORMULATION ●

IMPLEMENTATION ●

PRIMARY OPS ●

EXTENDED OPS ●

03.26.2021



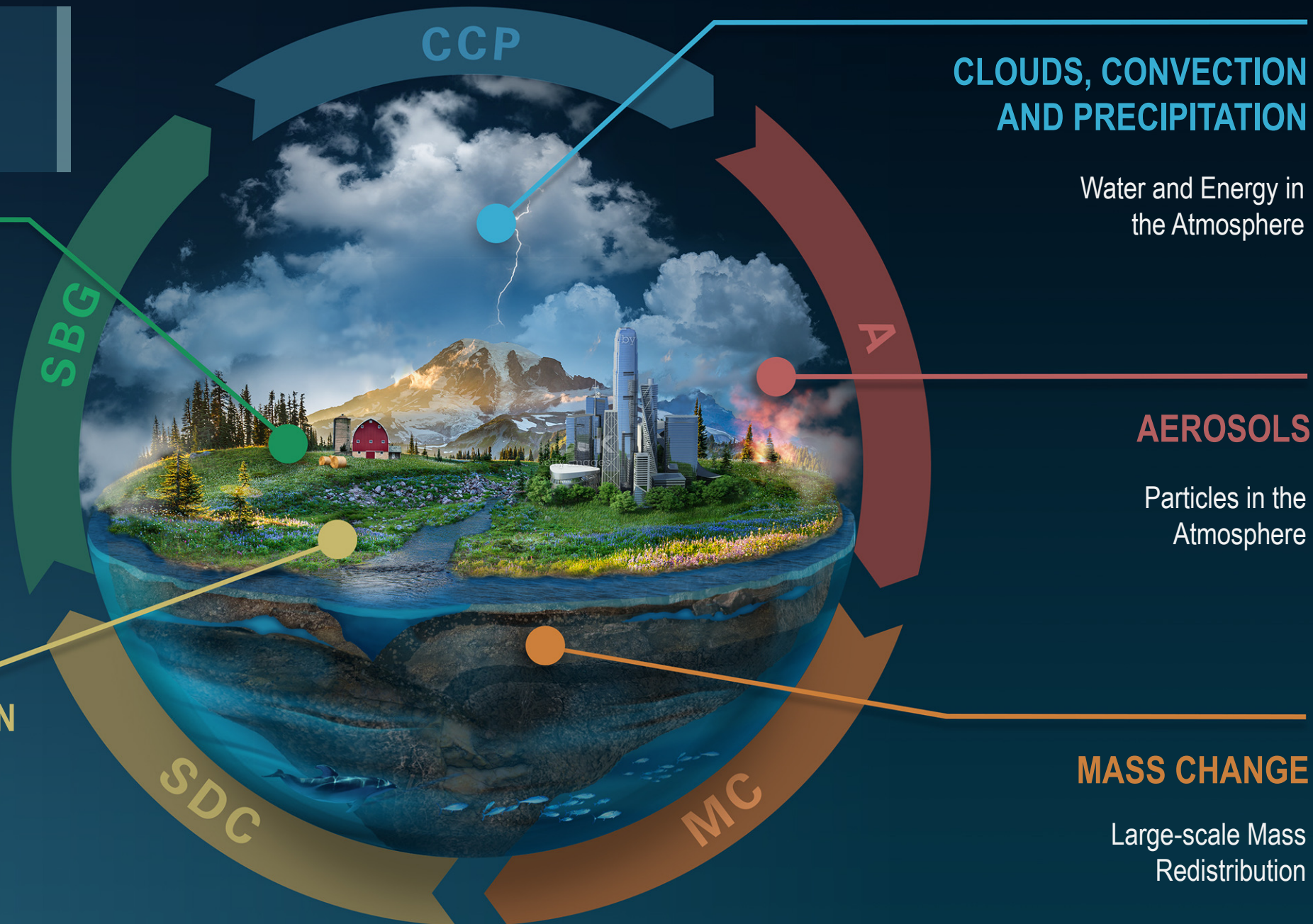
# EARTH SYSTEM OBSERVATORY

## SURFACE BIOLOGY AND GEOLOGY

Earth Surface & Ecosystems

## SURFACE DEFORMATION AND CHANGE

Earth Surface Dynamics



## CLOUDS, CONVECTION AND PRECIPITATION

Water and Energy in the Atmosphere

## AEROSOLS

Particles in the Atmosphere

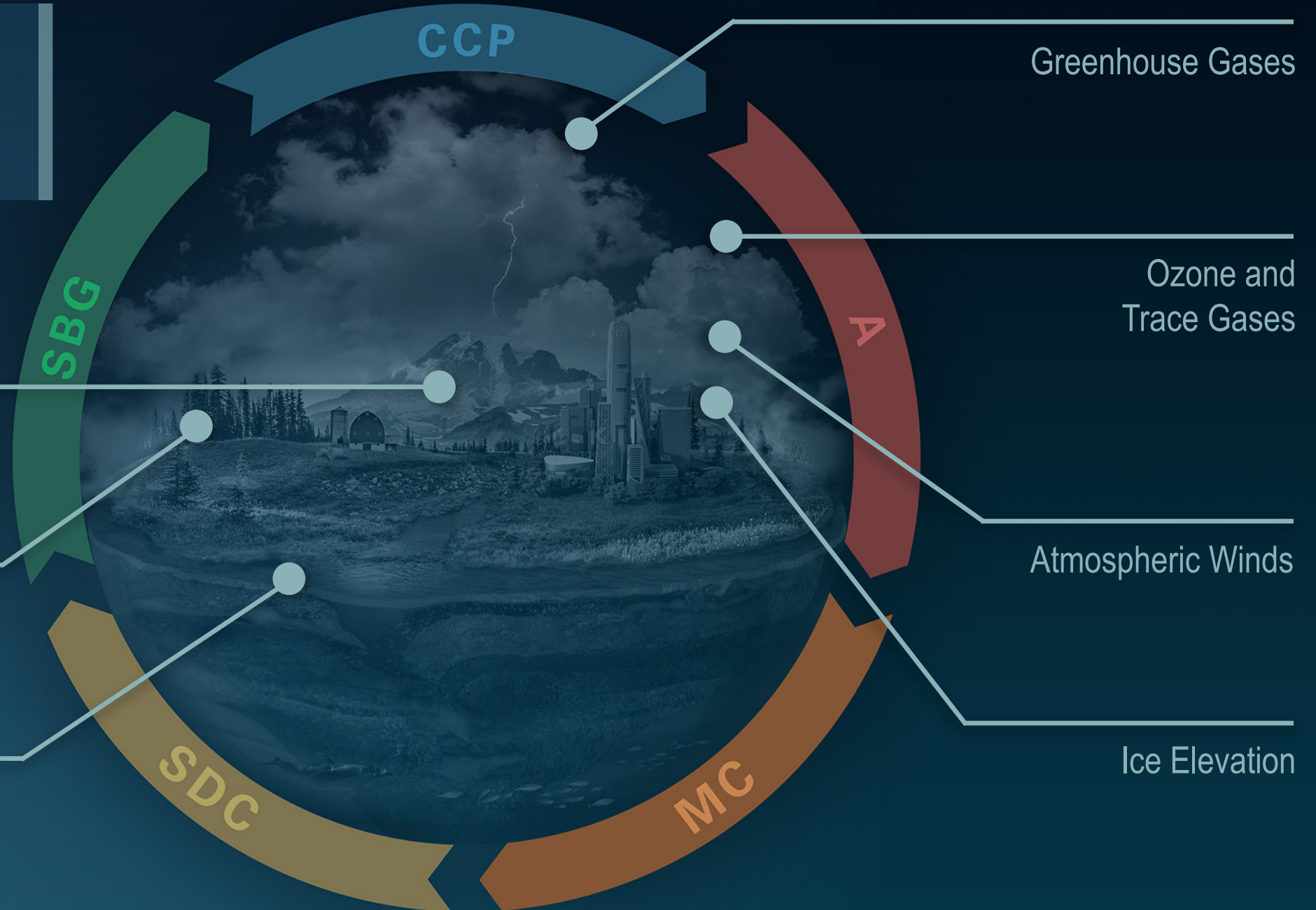
## MASS CHANGE

Large-scale Mass Redistribution

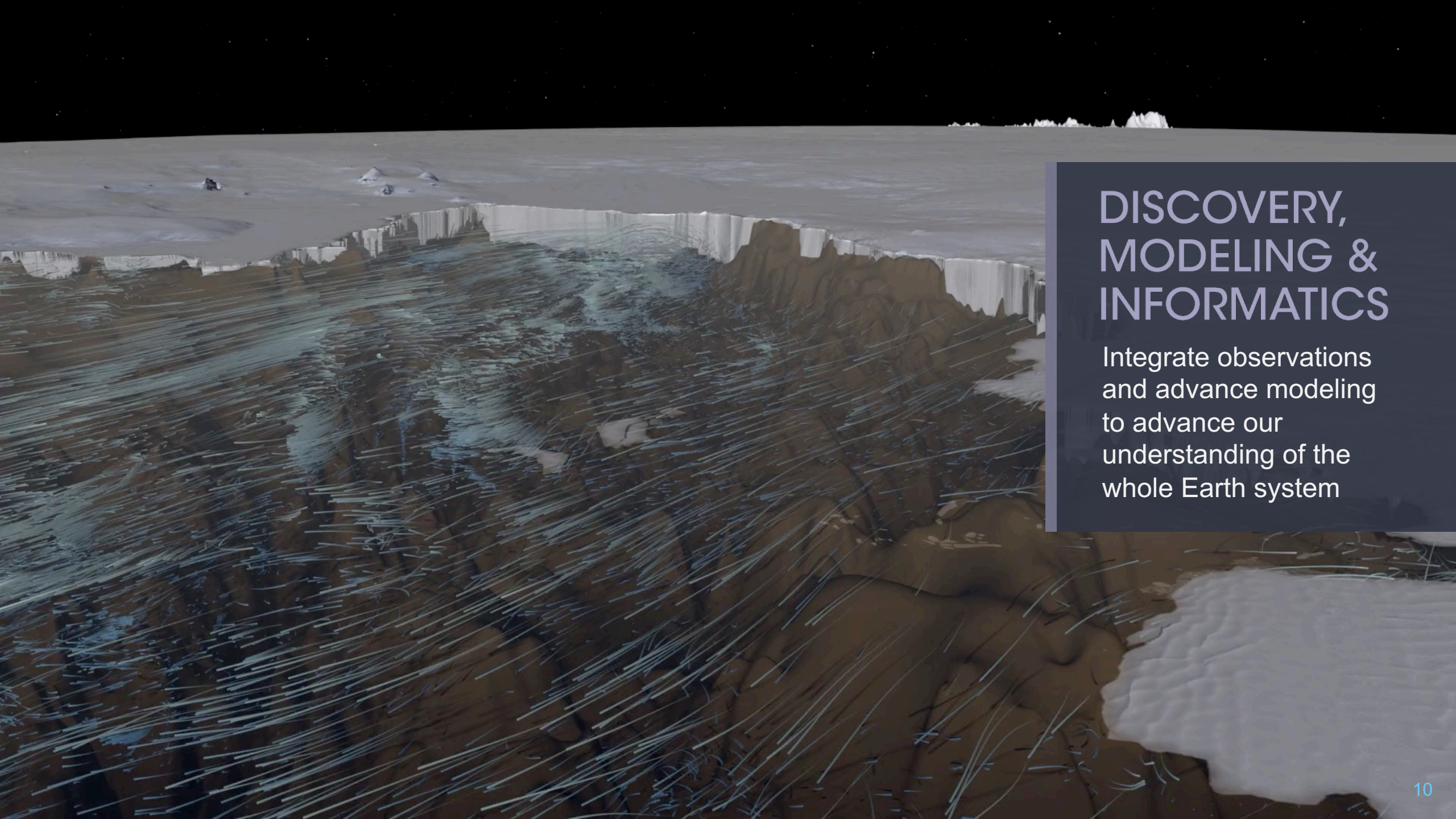


# INNOVATION & COMPETITION

Earth Explorer Missions







# DISCOVERY, MODELING & INFORMATICS

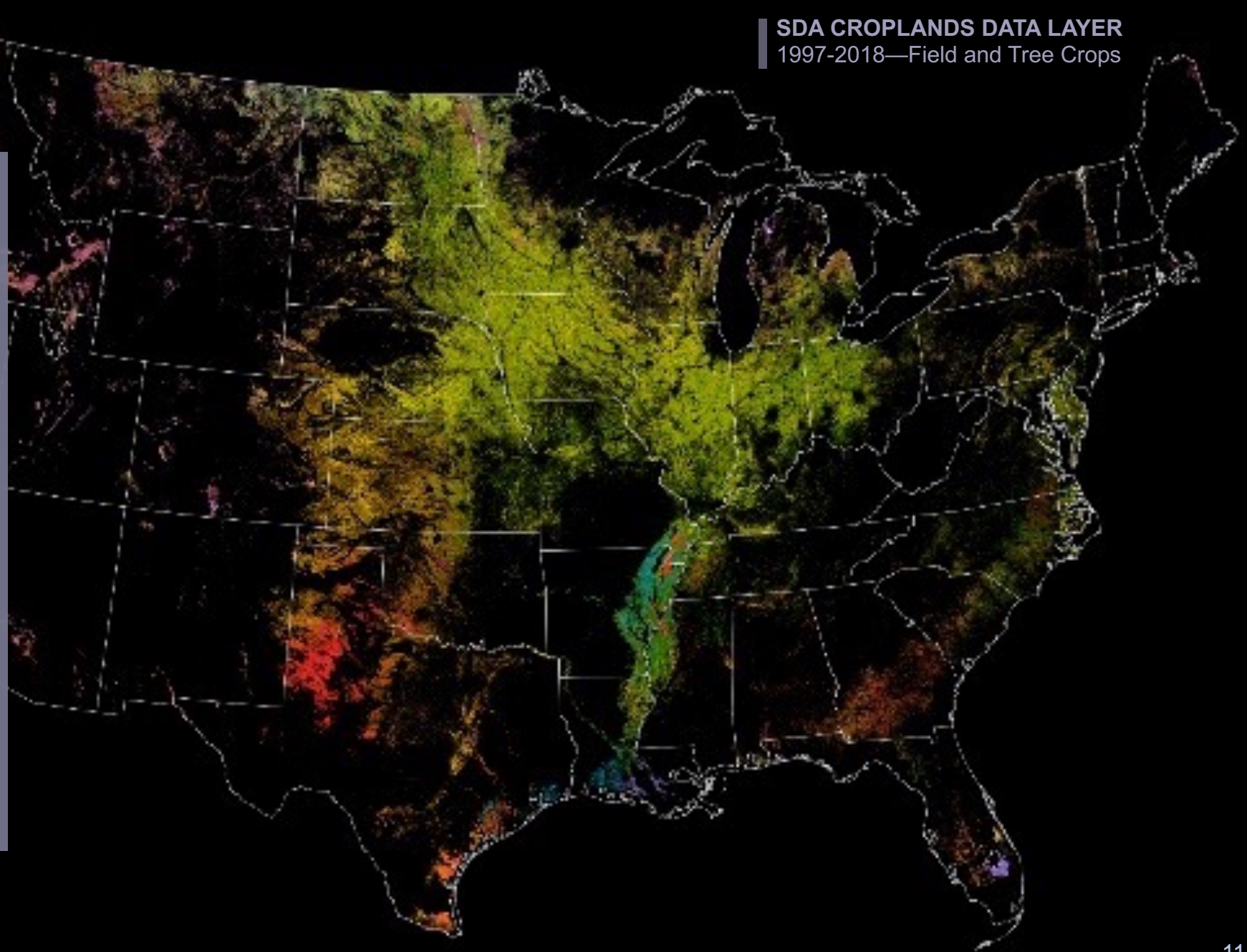
Integrate observations  
and advance modeling  
to advance our  
understanding of the  
whole Earth system



## APPLICATIONS & DISSEMINATION



Accelerate the uptake of  
scientific understanding  
and deliver information  
in scalable ways





# Urgency Demands Action and Innovation



**OPEN SCIENCE AND A DIVERSE,  
INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE**



**COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**



**U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS**



**INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

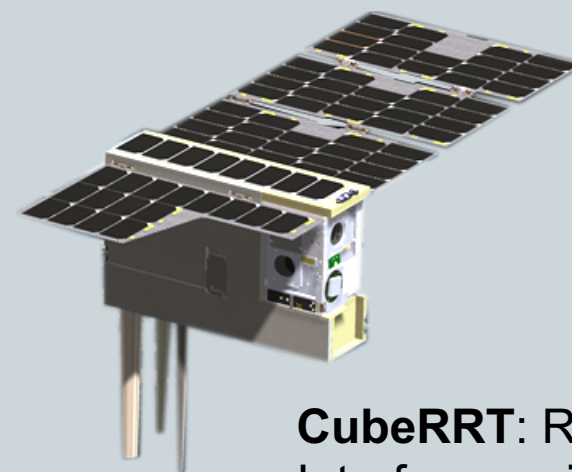
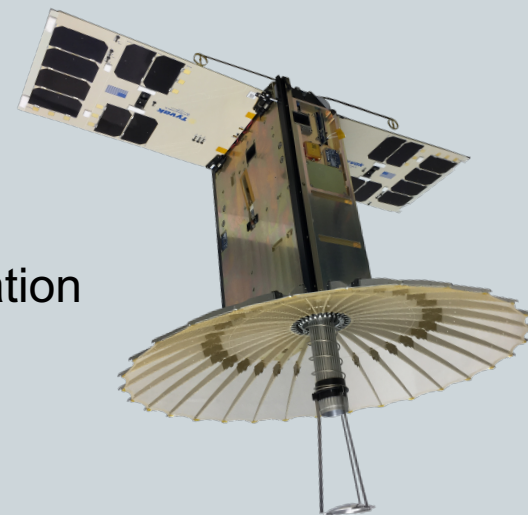


# ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FOR EARTH SCIENCE:

Two CubeSat missions successfully completed in 2020:

- Test and validate new space-based observing technologies
- CubeRRT demonstrated real-time RFI processing from space (reducing volume of data transmitted to ground)
- RainCube demonstrated first-use of radar on a CubeSat and validated Ka-band precipitation radar, and use of an ultra-compact, deployable antennae

**RainCube:** Vertical Profiling of Precipitation

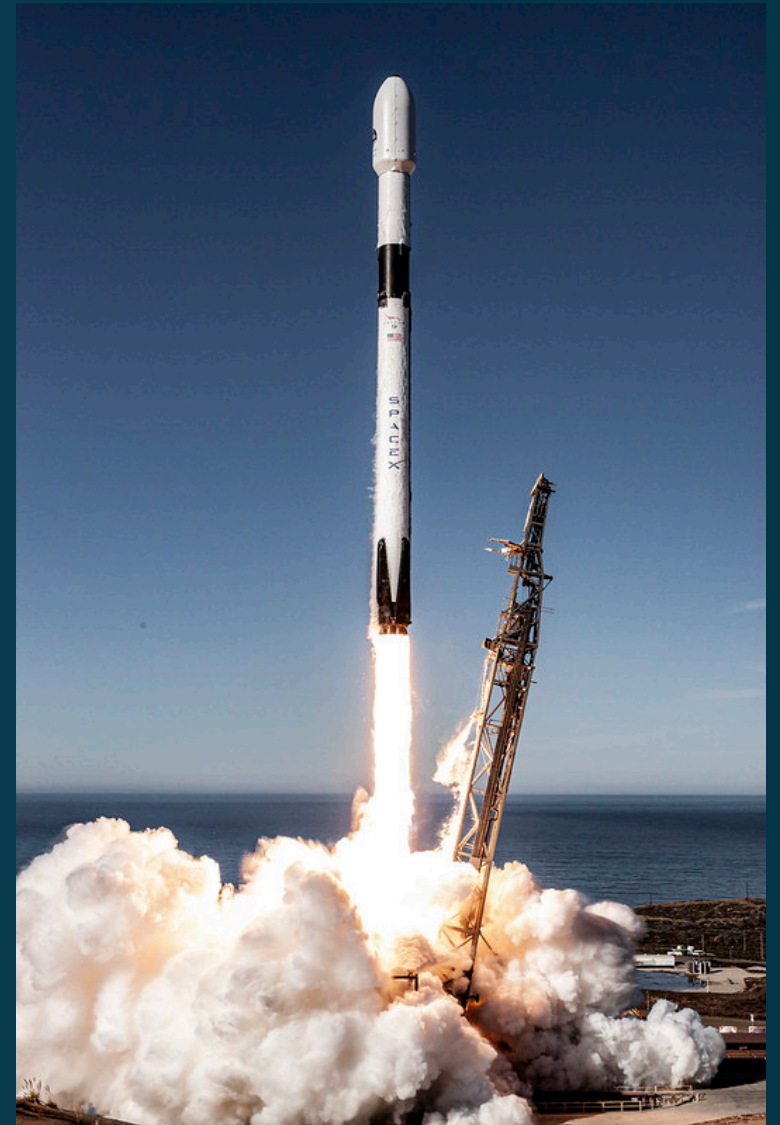


**CubeRRT:** Removing Interference in Radiometric Signals



# Principles of Commercial Partnerships

- Strategic partnerships that leverage unique strengths to drive scientific progress
- Partnerships that innovate both in *what* we do with commercial partners and *how* we do it
- Evolving partnership models: experimentation is key and some experiments may fail
- Traditional and non-traditional partnerships for success in “enabling new science” and “more science per dollar”
- Leverage existing commercial capacity, demand, and expertise, while exploring emerging business areas
- Build on investments in partnerships across NASA and other parts of the government, sharing our own best practices



The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich spacecraft lifts off from Space Launch Complex 4 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Nov. 21, 2020



# Develop Open Science Ecosystem

***Shorten the time*** it takes for a new user to find and learn how to use data

- Open access, availability, and discoverability of data

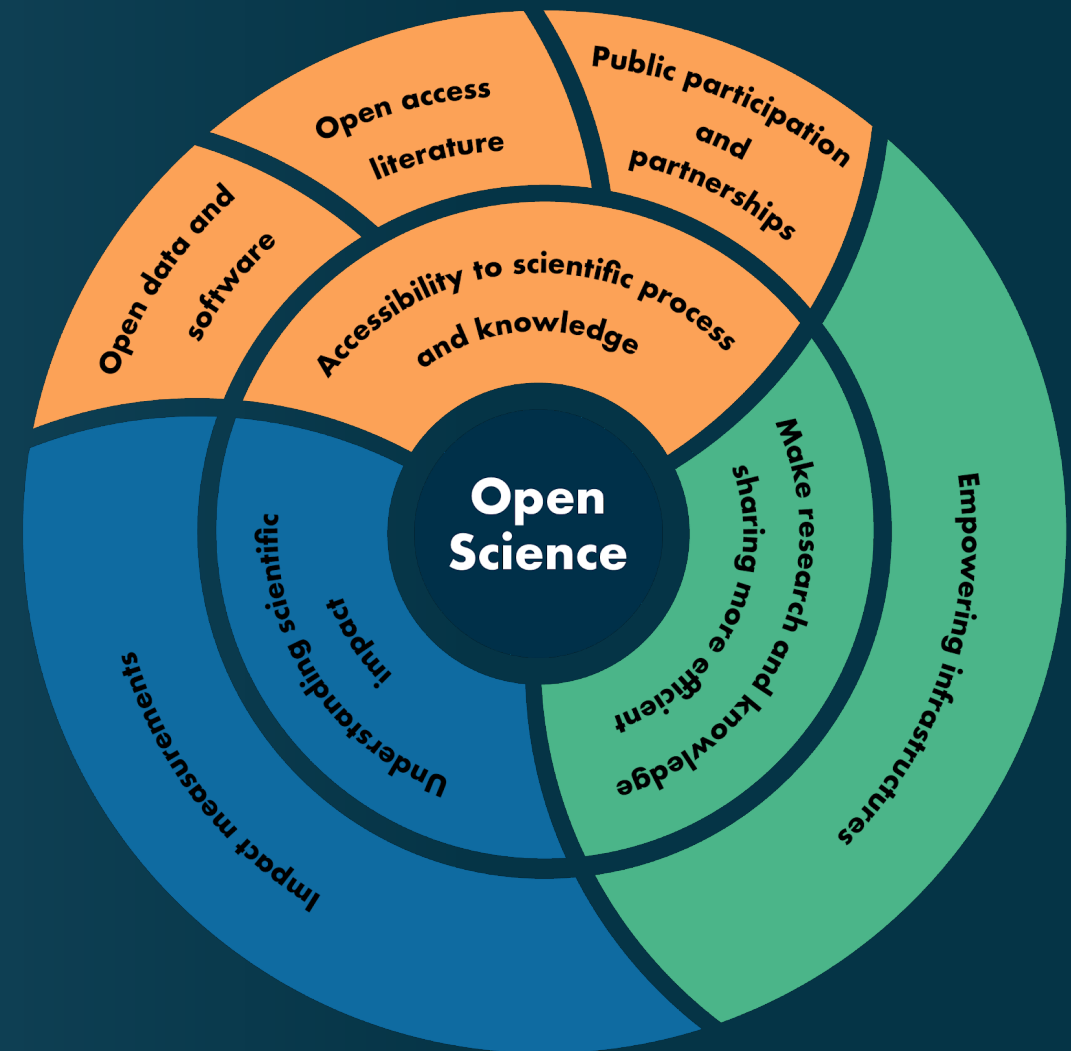
***Increase the community*** of hands-on contributions

- Open access to and advancement of modeling and simulation code
- To improve models, assimilation, and prediction tools

***Explore and exploit data*** in new ways

- Share knowledge and use current informatics and data science tools, in the same ecosystem as the data

***Incentivize and energize*** innovation through prizes and challenges





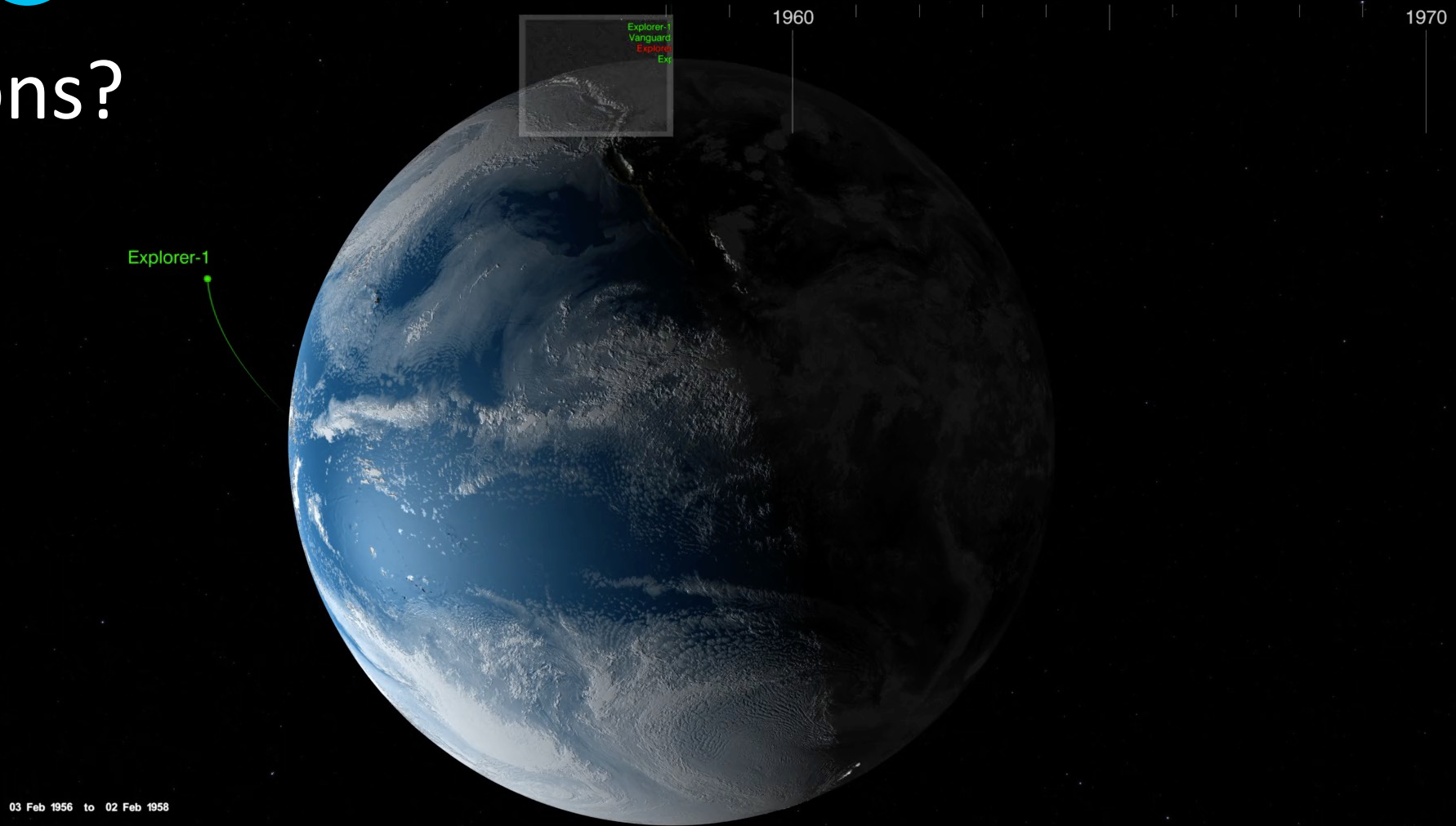
# ESD Priorities: Excellence in Earth Science

- ***Dramatically advance our understanding of the Earth system*** from vantage points of space, airborne and surface observations.
- ***Initiate the Earth System Observatory, NASA's next-gen advanced spaceborne systems***, to explore interactions between atmosphere, land, ocean, and ice processes that define climate change at regional and local levels, on near- to long-term time scales.
- ***Launch the competitive Earth Explorer program*** to rapidly develop innovative ways of observing additional key climate variables (greenhouse & trace gases, ice elevation & forest biomass), complementing the Observatory.
- ***Accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and its practical utility to decision-makers*** through Open Science principles and practices.
- Build a more ***prepared and capable workforce***, and ***meet the challenges of climate change in long-overlooked communities***, by expanding our Diversity and Inclusion efforts.



# EXPLORE EARTH

Questions?



## NASA Earth Observing Satellites Since 1958